

REMARKS

The Election Requirement of December 3, 2003 officially withdrew the previous Election Requirement of August 22, 2003. Consequently, the Response to Election of Species Requirement filed on September 22, 2003 is similarly withdrawn and believed to be unnecessary.

In response to the Election Requirement mailed August 22, 2003, Species VII, which is indicated as including in Fig. 15, is provisionally elected for prosecution in this application. Claims 1-3, 5-9, 11-17, 23-28, 32, 34, 35, and 37 are directed to this species. It is respectfully noted that claim 28 is directed to a tool holder with a plurality of second support members, which would otherwise not be covered by a particular figure, and the disclosure makes clear that the Fig. 15 embodiment is included in the scope of claim 28.

Applicants expressly reserve the right to file one or more divisional or continuing applications to protect the inventions of other disclosed subject matter prior to the issuance of this application. The election requirement is transversed, however, because at least Species VI and VIII would not present a previous burden for searching in addition to provisionally elected Species VII since all of these species have hook members.

In the Election Requirement, the Examiner contended that the use of these are the terms "thereof" and "therewith" and the Brief Descriptions of the Drawings are unclear with respect to what is being disclosed. Although it is believed that these terms were very clear as referring to the subject matter of the previous respective item mentioned, the present amendments to the specification have replaced the occurrences of "thereof", which should address the Examiner's concern. The term "therewith" in the description of Fig. 17 is believed to be clear, especially in light of the placement of the term "thereof" in the same paragraph.

With respect to the Examiner's comment that Figs. 11 and 13 appear to show only a one piece holder as opposed to the holder with front and back portions, these figures have been appropriately amended such that they are congruent with the specification. Additionally, Fig. 13 has been corrected to better show the depth of the recess 165. The amendments are fully supported in the originally filed application.

Respectfully submitted,



Date

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E. Bradley Gould

(Reg. No. 41,792)

For: Allan A. Fanucci

(Reg. No. 30,256)

WINSTON & STRAWN LLP

Customer No.: 28765

(202) 371-5771



FIG. 11

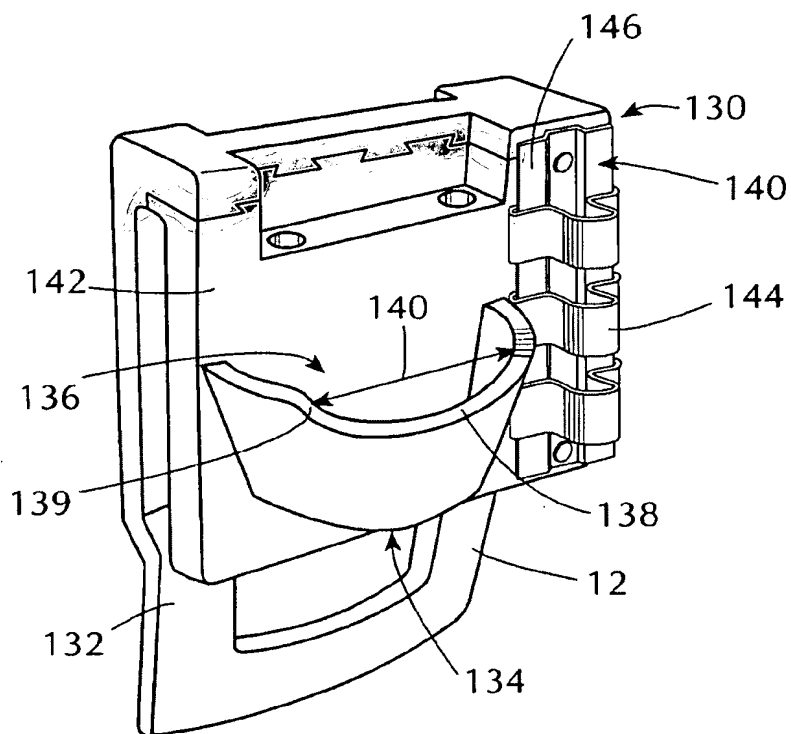


FIG. 12

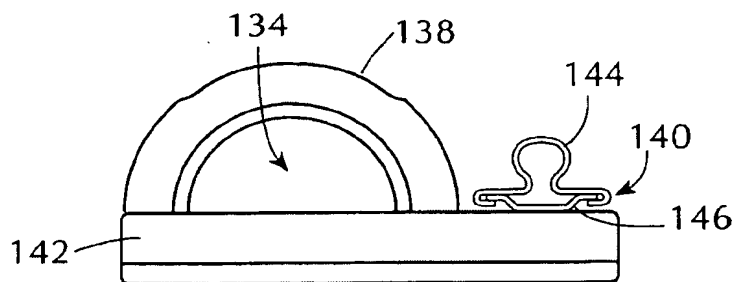




FIG. 13

